

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 442

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Rachel Touchton for her many years as a public servant.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should duly recognize those outstanding employees who through their years of hard work, diligence and dedication have proven themselves to be invaluable servants of our great state; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rachel Touchton, former assistant commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services, is one such exemplary public servant; Ms. Touchton has taken a much deserved retirement after thirty-three years of service; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Georgia Women's College, Ms. Touchton taught at Berry College in Rome, Georgia prior to her marriage and birth of her children; and

WHEREAS, knowing the value of continuing her education, she received her master's from the University of Tennessee, then embarked upon her meritorious thirty-three-year career with the Department of Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Touchton served the Department of Human Services with extraordinary dedication and admirable devotion, beginning her career there as a day care licensing counselor in September of 1964; and

WHEREAS, Her talents were realized as she quickly climbed the ranks within the Department; she served the Department and the people of our state with acumen in a variety of capacities: as child care supervisor, a child care consultant, social services program director, and finally as assistant commissioner; and

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WHEREAS, Ms. Touchton's competence as a public administrator was most evident in her efforts to direct contract services; she was credited with the development of an effective contract services program that partnered the state with the local agencies who actually provide the needed social services; and

WHEREAS, during her excellent tenure, this distinguished public official was also lauded for her efforts to strengthen the adult protective services program; in addition, she was responsible for instituting the regulation of child care services in our state; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished career, Rachel Touchton exemplified the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; she gave unreservedly of herself to ensure the protection of our citizenry while providing them with the most efficient and effective services possible; and

WHEREAS, an eager participant in professional activities, Ms. Touchton also generously contributed her expertise to the Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare; and

WHEREAS, She has also been an active and vital part of the Nashville community; as a valuable member of the League of Women Voters, she has given unselfishly of her time to the preservation and promotion of Cheekwood Museum of Art and Botanical Gardens; and

WHEREAS, the Touchtons are devout members of Christ Church Cathedral, where Ms. Touchton serves the church and the congregation as a member of the Altar Guild, the Wedding Guild and Daughters of the King; and

WHEREAS, her many achievements and accolades aside, Ms. Touchton is perhaps most appreciative of the love she shares with her family; she is the proud mother of three children: Butler Touchton of Murfreesboro, Thad Touchton of Goodlettsville, and Mandy Lunn of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, She is also the grandmother of three loving granddaughters, Rachel, Caitlin and Bailey Touchton, and three step-grandchildren: Matt, Jessica and Steve Lunn; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, after thirty-three years of dedicated public service, Rachel Touchton answered the tantalizing call of retirement; upon her retirement, it is appropriate that

the members of this Body express their gratitude to Ms. Touchton for her many years of outstanding service to the people of our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Rachel Touchton of Nashville for thirty-three years of meritorious service to the Department of Human Services. We acknowledge our profound appreciation for her many contributions to the welfare of our citizens and wish her much happiness in her well-deserved retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.